



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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June 25, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor  
FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIAL SERVICE FOR GROUPS**

This memorandum is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contracts. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to amend its current Legal Entity Agreement with Special Service for Groups (SSG) on a sole source basis to provide services to adults (18 and over) under felony probation who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and are at high risk for recidivism.

On May 19, 2015, the Board authorized DMH to accept the Second Chance Act grant award from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the implementation of the Comprehensive Adult Re-Entry (CARE) Program. The CARE program will expand in-reach and reentry programming for Los Angeles County (County) jail inmates who have chronic co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and are mandated to felony probation upon release. Utilizing an integrated care approach, CARE's primary goal will be to provide intensive, evidence-based Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) treatment to high-risk offenders in order to enhance successful reintegration into the community and promote long-term stability.

Earlier, on April 15, 2015, DMH had issued a Request for Information (RFI) (#DMH04152015B1) to qualified Legal Entity providers for the provision of services for this program. Fourteen providers responded by the deadline specified on the RFI. Of those providers only two stated they met all the requirements. Upon further verification of the eligibility of the two providers, it was determined that only SSG met the criteria needed for the provisions of the services for the CARE program. DMH therefore proposes to contract CARE services to SSG, an experienced provider of forensic COD services, including intensive, integrated jail reentry services.

SSG, a contracted DMH and Department of Public Health (DPH) provider, is uniquely qualified to provide integrated health, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services for this population from its existing site in the San Fernando Valley. SSG has a long history of providing a full range of recovery-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services for mentally ill offenders. Agency services include assertive

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outreach and engagement, individual and group treatment, medication support, crisis intervention, case management, benefits establishment, and employment services.

Project 180, a division of SSG, is a forensic treatment program specializing in oversight and treatment for an offender population. With nine years of experience working exclusively with a criminal justice population, Project 180 provides specially designed services that follow the evidence-based Risk-Need-Responsivity model and target behavioral health as well as co-occurring disorder issues. Having run successful in-reach and reentry programs since their inception, agency staff has clearance to all Los Angeles County jail facilities and well-established relationships with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, DMH, DMH Jail Mental Health Services including the Jail Mental Evaluation Team, and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Additionally, Project 180 staff is trained and certified in the leading evidenced-based practices for the offender COD populations and has participated in three previous Bureau of Justice Administration funded grants in County jails.

Unless otherwise instructed by your Board office within two weeks of this memorandum, DMH will proceed with preparing a sole source contract amendment. DMH will work closely with the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing a contract amendment with SSG.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Richard Kushi, Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at 213-738-4684.

MJS:RK:MM:bm

c:     Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
        Interim Chief Executive Officer  
        Mental Health Deputies  
        County Counsel  
        Robin Kay, Ph.D.  
        Mary Marx, L.C.S.W.